

Safety is our top priority. Stay aware at all times when visiting the park. If you see suspicious or potentially dangerous activity, or at any time feel unsafe, call a PARK RANGER at (757) 898-0058 or 911 in case of an emergency.

Wildlife and Pests

Petersburg National Battlefield is home to a diverse group of wildlife including deer, birds, raccoons, coyotes, snakes, etc. Please, report any strange behavior of live or dead animals to park staff. Information is gathered from these reports as we cannot be everywhere in the park at once. Do not touch dead animals or engage animals that may approach you. Do not touch or feed wildlife. Animals that seem overly "friendly" may be sick and disoriented. Contact park staff if you feel the animal may be a hazard.

Be Aware of:

- **Ticks** and other insects that carry disease are prevalent in Virginia. Most prevalent from spring to fall, these pesky biters can transmit Lyme disease and other illnesses. We highly recommend using insect repellent, especially if you plan to hike our trails. Check your skin and clothes frequently for ticks & shower soon after being outdoors. For more detailed information from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention on ticks visit <http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/>.
- **Chiggers** are frequently found in the brush. The larvae can bite you and cause severe itching. To treat, wash affected area and apply anti-itch lotion. If site becomes infected or severe allergic symptoms occur, seek medical attention.
- **Black Widow Spider** will attack if it feels threatened. Seek medical attention if you develop symptoms such as target-like marking and swelling at wound site, muscle pains, weakness, headache, nausea, sweating, dizziness, or increased blood pressure within 2 hours of the bite.
- **Brown Recluse Spider** will only bite if it is provoked. They are found most often in dry, enclosed, spaces. If left untreated, venom from a brown recluse spider can cause tissue damage.
- **Northern Copperhead** is venomous, but will only attack if provoked. Copperheads are very common in the park. If bitten, seek medical attention immediately.
- **Poison ivy** is a three leafed flowering plant or hairy vine that is well known for causing an itching, irritating, and sometimes painful rash in most people. You can get poison ivy rash from touching it, or touching something that has touched it, like your clothes or your dog. If you believe you came in contact with poison ivy wash your hands or infected area with warm soapy water as soon as possible.

Driving

Drive carefully. The park road is narrow, winding, and intended for leisurely enjoyment. Pay particular attention to the speed limit and any activity on or crossing the Tour Road (i.e. runners, hikers, bikers, horseback riders, and employees working). Park only in paved areas.

Trails

Recreational trails are suitable for hikers, bicyclists, and horses (yellow blazed trails only). Stay to the right of the trail, pass to the left. Wooden bridges may be slippery when wet or covered with leaves. Proceed with caution. For your safety and the safety of the resource, stay on the trails. Do not stray into the woods.

If Lost or In Case of Emergencies:

Each concrete post at major trail intersections is marked with green lettering. When reporting an emergency situation, note the closest lettering to help emergency responders assist quickly.

Weather

Summers in south-central Virginia are often very warm with high humidity. Check the weather in advance and plan accordingly. Dress for the heat and for sun protection, and don't forget to pack lots of water. Be aware of different conditions associated with heat stress, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke in order to know when to rest or ask someone for help.

More Information: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/>

